Frequently Requested Phone Numbers and Websites:

East Helena Lead Program

406-457-8583

Environmental Health

406-447-8355

Cooperative Health Clinic

406-443-2584

City of East Helena

406-227-5321

Consumer Product Safety Commission:

800-638-2772

www.cpsc.gov

Centers for Disease Control www.cdc.gov/nceh/programs/lead/lead

EPA

406-457-5000

Lewis and Clark County

www.co.lewis-clark.mt.us

Montana DEQ

www.deq.mt.gov

Lewis and Clark County's Burning Regulations

The Lewis and Clark County Outdoor Air Quality Regulations govern the use of solid-fuel burning devices like fireplaces and wood-burning stoves in the Helena Valley. Under these rules, you may be required to restrict burning when the air quality in the Helena Valley is considered "poor."

The health department monitors air quality year-round and notifies the public of its status using the designations "good," "watch," and "poor."

Air quality is most likely to be poor during the winter, when weather inversions trap wood smoke and vehicle exhaust under a layer of warm air. Wood stoves have been identified as the primary source of particulate pollution during inversions.

The purpose of the Outdoor Air Quality Regulations is to protect public health and keep particulate levels below the standard required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Outdoor burning is regulated by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. For more information, call 1-800-225-6779.

Monitor Air Quality

During the winter, air quality can change within hours from Good to Poor. To avoid violating burning restrictions or incurring civil penalties, check the status of air quality in one of these ways:

- Call the 24-hour Air Quality Hotline, 406-447-1644
- Check local media for air-quality reports.
- Sign up for e-mail notifications of air quality by sending an e-mail to <u>outdoorAQ@co.lew</u> <u>is-clark.mt.us</u>

For information about open burning call: 1-800-225-6779.

This Christmas don't throw the wrapping paper in the woodstove or the fireplace. Wrapping paper burns hotter and has higher flames, which could cause chimney fires. Be safe this Christmas and toss the wrapping paper.

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